## Message Text

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UNCLAS HELSINKI 0785

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 7TH REGIONAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO NATIONAL COMMISSIONS

OF EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, HELSINKI APRIL 18-23

- 1. OPENING SESSION 7TH CONFERENCE GOT UNDER WAY ON APRIL 18
  IN FRIENDLY SPIRIT AND ORDERLY FASHION WITH SMOOTH ACCEPTANCE
  OF AGENDA AND RULES OF PROCEDURE. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AS
  FOLLOWS: CONFERENCE PRESIDENT CHAIRMAN OF FINNISH NATIONAL
  COMMISSION (SAKARI KIURU); VICE PRESIDENTS: BULGARIA,
  NETHERLANDS, SPAIN, SWITZERLAND. CANADIAN NATCOM SECGEN
  ELECTED RAPPORTEUR GENERAL WITH YUGOSLAV NATCOM CO-RAPPORTEUR.
  CHAIRMAN COMMISSION I FRANCE WITH VICE CHAIRMAN US (LYONS)
  AND RAPPORTEUR ROMANIA; COMMISSION II CHAIRMAN USSR
  (SMIRNOV) WITH VICE CHAIRMAN ITALY AND RAPPORTEUR ICELAND.
- 2. THREE PREPCOM PLANNING SESSIONS HAVE LAID WAY FOR SMOOTH MEETING AND FINNS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN POSITIVE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI ACCORDS THROUGH LOW KEY DISCUSSIONS LEADING TO CONSENSUS DECISIONS ONLY.

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- 3. 35 NATIONAL COMMISSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN REGION, INCLUDING ISRAEL, ARE IN ATTENDANCE, PLUS OBSERVERS FROM PORTUGAL AND SAN MARINO, WHERE UNESCO COMMISSIONS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ESTABLISHED.
- 4. NO CHALLENGE TO ISRAEL'S PRESENCE RAISED, AS INITIALLY ANTICIPATED FROM EE'S. THE HOSTS AND

UNESCO SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS (PRIMARILY NAJMAN) SUCCEEDED IN CONVINCING THE SOVIETS NOT TO PRESS THE ISSUE. THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE RELEASED APRIL 18 STATES THAT "UNESCO COMMISSIONS OF ISRAEL, CANADA AND THE USA PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE CAPACITY OF FULL REPRESENTATIVES FOLLOWING THE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE COUNTRIES AS MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN REGION BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO."

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